

Guidelines for the West Harpswell School Work Group

Objective: Should Harpswell citizens decide not to keep West Harpswell School (WHS) open, the Town will need to decide fairly quickly whether to accept the school. An objective report from the Work group will be extremely useful in making that decision. The report should cover the systems, spaces, conditions and prospects of WHS, both building and site.

Workgroup Task:

Building - To prepare a report detailing, in so far as feasible, the spaces, mechanical and other major systems, their current condition and any upgrading or improvements that will be needed in the next five years. Any special purpose spaces such as the gymnasium should be noted. The status of the well (or water source) should also be reported.

Land – A report indicating the amount and type of land as well as any practical or environmental concerns with implications regarding future use or costs.

Working Approach: First steps would involve consultation with the facilities director of MSAD #75 and possibly with Principal Michael Estes, or others who have worked in WHS, to learn as much as possible about their experience with the building and site. MSAD #75 has indicated its willingness to make documents available and to meet with the group. Beyond that it is anticipated that the group will do its own examination of the premises, cooperating with the school district so as not to disrupt the ongoing education program.

Time Table: The work should be completed by the close of 2009.

Costs, Revenues and Market Appeal: An estimate should be made of the cost to the Town of operating the building. Much of the needed information should be available from the report just prepared by MSAD #75 to determine operating costs, with modifications for year-to-year changes. In addition it would be very valuable to have a review of other possible uses for the building, of revenues that could result from its sale or rental and of the marketability of the facility.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen October 29, 2009